

NSC BRIEFING

18 March 1954

BACKGROUND

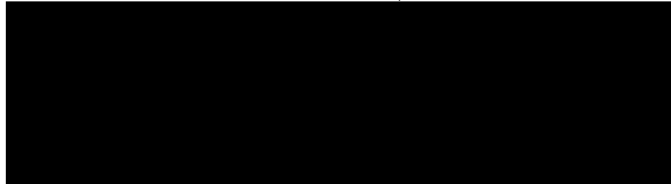
IMPLICATIONS IN MOSLEM LEAGUE
DEFEAT IN EAST PAKISTAN

- I. Statistics: East Bengal most populous - 42,000,000 - and richest province Pakistan, separated from Karachi by over 1,000 miles Indian territory. Total Pakistani population 78,000,000. Pakistan divided into 6 provinces, of which 5 are in West Pakistan.
- II. Factors in League Defeat:
 - A. Unpopularity local League leaders, especially former chief minister Nurul Amin, who was defeated by large majority.
 - B. League failure to grant more provincial autonomy - improve basic economic conditions among depressed jute workers, peasants.

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25X1X4

C.



E. Initial overconfidence Moslem League leaders - United Democratic Front first real opposition since partition of British India in 1947 - League started campaign slowly, then postponed elections in hope of gaining ground, but move may have backfired.

F. In last weeks Moslem League leaders campaigned vigorously. Even Fatimah Jinnah, sister of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan, joined campaign for the League.

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III. Seat Allotment E. Bengal Provincial

Assembly:

Moslem seats	237
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Non-Moslem	72
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Scheduled Castes	38
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Caste Hindus	31
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Buddhists	2
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Christians	1
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TOTAL	309
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Women have reserved for them:

9 Moslem seats

2 Scheduled Castes seats

1 Hindu Caste seat

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